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	Attorneys for Plaintiff WILLIAM TAYLOR  UNLIMITED JUR  SUPERIOR COURT OF THE S  FOR THE COUNTY OF	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
	12 13 WILLIAM TAYLOR, 14 Plaintiff, 15 vs. 16 CITY OF BURBANK and DOES 1 through 17 100, inclusive, Defendants.	CASE NO. BC 422 252  [Assigned to the Hon. John L. Segal, Judge, Dept. "50"]  DECLARATION OF GREGORY W. SMITH IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES
	19 20 21 22 23	Time: 8:30 a.m.  Dept.: "50"  [Filed concurrently with Points & Authorities and Declarations of Christopher Brizzolara, Douglas Benedon, and Selma Francia]  September 22, 2009
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OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES I am an attorney at law duly licensed to practice before all the Courts of 1. the State of California and attorney of record for Plaintiff Bill Taylor.

I have direct knowledge of the following and if called to testify, I could and 2. would competently testify concerning those matters set forth herein.

I have practiced law for over twenty-four years and have been lead trial counsel in approximately 60 jury trials. Of that amount, approximately ninety-five 3. (95) percent were related to employment law or civil rights litigation. Moreover, I have been involved in numerous high profile lawsuits. I represented numerous plaintiffs in the so-called "Rampart Scandal" including Destiny Ovando (daughter of Javier Ovando, the first prisoner released due to Perez' allegations of police misconduct), received a 2.7 million dollar verdict in a reverse discrimination case against the City of Inglewood when I represented the two police officers that had allegedly abused Donovan Jackson in a high profile police use of force case. In 2007, I won two trials; Lima v. City of Los Angeles 3.7 million dollars and another 1.3 million against Toys 'R' Us in U.S. District Court. In 2008, 17 along with Chris Brizzolara, I won a whistleblower action against the City of Long Beach for \$4.1 million. After the Long Beach case, I won Burton v. City of Los Angeles for \$1.6 20 million. Most recently, I authored briefs and participated, along with Chris Brizzolara in the 21 appeal of the action entitled McDonald, et al. v. Antelope Valley Community College 22 District which resulted in a published appellate and Supreme Court decision in our clients' 23 favor. The McDonald appeal involves the important employment law issue of whether the 24 doctrine of equitable tolling applies to the time period for filing a FEHA complaint. 26 Additionally, I have another published opinion in the Second District in which I 27

successfully limited attorneys' fees against my client in a wage and hour dispute. In September 2008, I obtained a \$3.1 million verdict in *Hill v. City of Los Angeles* in a matter involving issues of FEHA retaliation. On July 24, 2009, in the matter of *Stallworth v. City of Los Angeles*, a jury returned a verdict in my client's favor in the amount of \$635,798.00 in a FEHA discrimination and retaliation matter. Also, in October 2010, my client received a verdict in the amount of \$736,312.00 in the case of *Blackstone v. City of Los Angeles* which involved issues of FEHA gender discrimination & retaliation. I also won another whistleblower retaliation case where a jury awarded my client \$995,000.00 in a case entitled *Miller v. City of Los Angeles*. Similarly, in a high profile trial that was completed on April 11, 2011 involving whistleblower retaliation issues, my clients received a \$2 million verdict in *Chan/Benioff v. City of Los Angeles*. More recently, in May 2011, in *Crump v. City of Los Angeles*, a jury returned a verdict in my client's favor in the amount of \$1.1 million in a FEHA sexual orientation, discrimination & retaliation case. Finally, in 2012, in the case *Abbate v. City of Los Angeles*, my client was awarded a \$1 million verdict by a jury.

4. For the last twenty-five (24) years, my practice has almost been exclusively in the area of employment related matters. I have arbitrated and participated in numerous sexual harassment and discrimination cases and have represented over 1000 clients in employment related matters. I am a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). I am also a panel attorney for the Los Angeles Police Protective league (LAPPL) and handle many of the union's difficult employment related issues on behalf of individual police officers. I am also a member of numerous organizations which consist of attorneys that represent plaintiffs in employment related litigation. I have been nominated twice, in 2009 and 2011, for trial lawyer of the year by CAALA (Consumer Attorney's

Brizzolara's work product and the work he conducted in this case. Further, I have tried multiple cases with Mr. Brizzolara in which we have received numerous multi-million dollar verdicts against public entities. In fact, the area of police litigation is a highly specialized area of law and Mr. Brizzolara is one of only three or four experts in this area of law in Los Angeles County. Based upon Mr. Brizzolara's skill and experience in the area of litigation in employment cases, it is my opinion he should be awarded a rate of \$600.00 per hour. I 6 further believe that this rate is reasonable billing rate for a lawyer of his experience in the 8 local legal community. 9

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- It is also my opinion that the market rate for the legal services of Mr. Brizzolara and I, should be subjected to a positive multiplier given the realities and 8. practicalities of litigating FEHA claims against a public entity. It is my personal experience that employment cases against public entities are time, money, and labor intensive, and are difficult cases to win. Public entities often utilize virtually unlimited resources in defending these types of cases. Typically, such public agencies will file every possible motion, and use every possible legal device available to attempt to defeat the plaintiff's 16 claims. Even after adverse jury verdicts and judgments, the public entities will often 17 18 continue to vigorously litigate the claims through post trial motions and appeals. 19 20
  - Further, since there is often no direct evidence of retaliatory conduct by the Defendants in these types of cases, the attorneys for the plaintiffs must often be quite skilled and creative in adducing circumstantial evidence and presenting arguments to convince the trier-of-fact that such intent in fact existed, and was a motivating reason for the conduct at issue. Additionally, these cases advance the important public policies of eliminating discrimination, and retaliation from the work place, for the good of society as a whole.

- 10. Further, this case was aggressively litigated by two of California's most respected defense lawyers, Linda Savitt and Ron Frank. These lawyers were essentially given a blank check by the city and used every means imaginable to delay and obstruct this litigation. On two occasions, the defense brought writs causing me to hire appellate counsel to oppose their arguments. Further, no documents were turned over in this case without requiring a massive expenditure of time and money by me and my co-counsel. This case took up a considerable amount of time and effort on my part and was highly stressful litigation because of the unlimited resources the City had to prepare its defense.
- attorneys' billings and costs that I copied directly from the City of Burbank's web site. The court should note that the attorneys' fees charged to the City by the numerous defense attorneys in *Taylor v. City of Burbank*, amounted to a staggering \$1,015,023.60. I believe this amount does not reflect the trial and preparation time for Linda Savitt since the last entries were made only by Ron Frank's firm. I also believe that Frank's trial and preparation time were not yet added to this document. The final bill for all of defense counsel is more likely in the range of \$1.5 million. Defendant's costs for jury, court reporter fees, and expert fees for Gardiner, Stehr, Lynch, Lowers and Varner are also not reflected in this bill which leads me to believe the City is not reporting any of the costs and attorneys' fees that were generated for the trial. The City could have settled this case for a fraction of what they paid in attorney's fees.
- 12. Selma Francia is a paralegal employed by my office. Filed concurrently with this motion is a declaration prepared by Ms. Francia setting forth her skills, qualifications, and the hours she worked on the Bill Taylor matter. Based upon my knowledge of Ms. Francia's skill and experience in the area of litigation support, I believe she should be

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awarded a rate of \$200.00 per hour. I further believe that this rate is reasonable billing rate for a paralegal of her experience in the local legal community. Ms. Francia's hours amount to 118.5 hours. At \$200.00 per hour, her total bill is in the amount of \$23,700.00.

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Since the Plaintiffs in these types of actions generally cannot afford to pay 13. the attorneys fees and costs associated with these types of actions, the attorneys for plaintiffs often are required to advance substantial sums of money, and significant amounts of time, effort, and labor, in order to prosecute these cases. Because the attorneys for plaintiffs will only be paid their fees and reimbursed their costs if they win, an additional element of contingent risk is involved, which along with the factors set forth above, supports that a multiplier be applied to the fees of attorneys for the successful plaintiffs in these types of actions. Accordingly, I request a multiplier of 2.0 in this case.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2012, in Beverly Hills, California.

# FEDERAL COURT RULING

2:05-cv-3425 Doc: 190

Gregory W Smith
Gregory W Smith Law Offices
9952 Santa Monica Boulevard, 1st Floor
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Number of Pages:

13

It is hereby certified that this document was served by first class mail postage prepaid or by fax or e-mail delivery to counsel (or parties) at their respective address or fax number or e-mail address of record.



# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ARTHUR KRUISHEER,

Plaintiff,

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TOYS 'R' US - DELAWARE, INC. and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive.

Defendants.

Case No. CV 05-3425 GAF (VBKx)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER REGARDING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES

l.

#### INTRODUCTION

This is an action brought pursuant to California's Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") based upon age and disability discrimination by Defendant Toys 'R' Us against its former employee, Plaintiff Arthur Kruisheer. On October 12, 2007, the jury reached a verdict in favor of Plaintiff, finding that both Plaintiff's age and medical condition were motivating reasons for his termination. (See 10/19/07 Judgment at 2.) The jury awarded Plaintiff damages totaling \$1,130,000. (Id. at 3.)

Plaintiff now moves the Court for an award of attorney's fees in a lodestar amount of "at least" \$265,875, "plus an appropriate multiplier of not less than 1.7" for a total of \$452,000. (Not. of Mot. at ii.) The Court initially concluded that the motion should be granted but with a multiplier of 1.2. Having conducted a hearing on the motion and undertaking a further review of the record, the Court GRANTS Plaintiff's motion for attorney's fees with the 1.2 multiplier. The following briefly sets forth the Court's reasoning.

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#### DISCUSSION

## A. ENTITLEMENT TO ATTORNEY'S FEES

Plaintiff asserts that he is entitled to attorney's fees on two separate grounds: (1) FEHA itself; and (2) California's private attorney general doctrine. The Court finds that Plaintiff is entitled to attorney's fees under the statutory framework set forth under FEHA.

### 1. ATTORNEY'S FEES UNDER FEHA

Cal. Gov. Code § 12965(b) provides in relevant part that "[i]n actions brought under this section, the court, in its discretion may award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs . . . ." Cal. Gov. Code § 12965(b). The term "in its discretion" means that "the court, in a manner that, in the judgment of the court, will best effectuate the purposes of FEHA, may award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs." Horsford v. Board of Trustees of Cal. State. Univ., 132 Cal. App. 4th 359, 394 (Ct. App. 2005) (internal quotation marks and alterations omitted).

"The award of reasonable attorney fees accomplishes the Legislature's expressly stated purpose of FEHA to provide effective remedies that will eliminate . . . discriminatory practices." Id. (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). "In order to be effective in accomplishing the legislative purpose of assuring the availability of counsel to bring meritorious actions under FEHA, the goal of an award

of attorney fees is to fix a fee at the fair market value for the particular action." Id. (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). Fee awards under FEHA, therefore, "should be fully compensatory" and absent circumstances rendering the award unjust, the fee award "should ordinarily include compensation for all the hours reasonably spent in litigating the action to a successful conclusion." Id. (citations omitted).

Here, it is undisputed that Plaintiff is a "prevailing party" in this action. For attorney's fee awards authorized by statute, a "prevailing party" is generally one in whose favor a net judgment has been entered. See Smith v. Rae-Venter Law Group, 29 Cal. 4th 345, 354 (2002); see also 10/19/07 Judgment at 2-3. Defendant does not contend otherwise. Indeed, Defendant's Opposition all but concedes that Plaintiff is entitled to attorney's fees, and only disputes the amount of those fees. (See generally Opp.) Accordingly, the Court concludes that Plaintiff is entitled to attorney's fees under FEHA.

## 2. ATTORNEY'S FEES UNDER THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOCTRINE

The Court notes its skepticism of Plaintiff's entitlement to attorney's fees under California's private attorney general doctrine. Given the above conclusion that he is entitled to attorney's fees under FEHA, however, the Court need not address this alternate ground.

### B. LODESTAR CALCULATION

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#### 1. THE LEGAL STANDARD

"[A] court assessing attorney['s] fees begins with a touchstone or lodestar figure, based on the careful compilation of the time spent and reasonable hourly compensation of each attorney involved in the presentation of the case."

23 DaimlerChrysler Corp. 34 Cal. 4th at 579 (citing Serrano v. Priest ("Serrano III"), 20 24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For example, the Court doubts: (1) whether the present action conferred a "significant benefit" on the general public or broad class of persons within the meaning of the doctrine; or (2) that the necessity and financial burden of private enforcement transcended Plaintiff's personal interest in the litigation. See Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 1021.5; Press v. Lucky Stores, Inc., 34 Cal. 3d 311, 317-18 (1983).

Cal. 3d 25, 48, n.23 (1977) (internal quotation marks omitted)). The California Supreme Court has "expressly approved the use of prevailing hourly rates as a basis for the lodestar, noting that anchoring the calculation of attorney['s] fees to the lodestar adjustment method is the only way of approaching the problem that can claim objectivity, a claim which is obviously vital to the prestige of the bar and the courts." Id. (citation omitted).

#### 2. ANALYSIS

## a. Hours Worked by Plaintiff's Counsel

entitled to credence in the absence of a clear indication the records are erroneous."

Horsford v. Bd. of Trs. of Cal. State Univ., 132 Cal. App. 4th 359, 396 (Ct. App. 2005).

The Court concludes that the verified time statements provided by Plaintiff's counsel appear reasonable and are entitled to deference. The Court notes, moreover, that Defendant does not object to any of these time entries. (See Opp. at 9.) Therefore, the Court finds that all of the 568 hours worked by Plaintiff's counsel – 425.5 hours by Mr. Brizzolara, 70 hours by Mr. Smith, and 72.5 hours by Ms. Chun – are compensable.

## b. Hourly Rate of Plaintiff's Counsel

"A reasonable hourly rate reflects the skill and experience of the lawyer, including any relevant areas of particular expertise and the nature of the work preformed." Crommie v. State of Cal. Pub. Util. Commin, 840 F. Supp. 719, 725 (N.D. Cal. 1994) (citations omitted). "The court may consider the applicants' customary billing rates and the prevailing rate charged by attorneys of similar skill and experience for comparable legal services in the community." Id. (citation omitted). Moreover, courts generally look to the rates for attorneys at the time of the prevailing party's fee application, rather than the rates charged by that attorney at the time litigation began. See Gates v. Deukmejian, 987 F.2d 1392, 1406 (9th Cir. 1993).

Mr. Brizzolara requests an hourly rate of \$500.00, which the Court finds reasonable. Among other things, he has 24 years of litigation experience (Brizzolara Decl. ¶ 3), has recently tried six jury trials resulting in jury verdicts in excess of \$1 million (id. ¶ 10), has had experience in FEHA-based discrimination cases (id.).

These factors demonstrate that Mr. Brizzolara has the skill, experience, and level of expertise that justify his requested hourly rate. See Crommie, 840 F. Supp. at 725.

Moreover, Defendant does not dispute that Brizzolara is entitled to an hourly rate of \$425.00. (Opp. at 12.) Given the two years that have elapsed since Judge Cooper approved that hourly rate for Brizzolara in another federal action, an increase of \$75.00 per hour is reasonable, considering that Brizzolara has gained additional experience, and successfully litigated additional jury trials since that time (see Brizzolara Decl. ¶ 10).

Mr. Smith also requests an hourly rate of \$500.00. Mr. Smith has been practicing law for twenty years (Smith Decl. ¶ 3), and has a record comparable to that of Mr. Brizzolara. He and Mr. Brizzolara jointly tried the case and shared many of the responsibilities for preparing the case for presentation to the jury. Indeed, as Mr. Smith represented at the hearing, he has tried more cases to verdict than has Mr. Brizzolara. Accordingly, the Court concludes that \$500.00 is a reasonable hourly rate for his skill and experience.<sup>2</sup>

Ms. Chun requests an hourly rate of \$250.00 which Defendant does not dispute. The Court finds that given her level of skill and experience handling employment law cases, the requested hourly rate is reasonable.

Accordingly, the Court accepts the following lodestar calculation:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Court notes that Defendant's counsel disputes Brizzolara and Smith's requested rate is excessive, and by way of example, points out that his own hourly rate is \$355.00. (Sanchez Decl. ¶ 9.) The Court does not find this argument persuasive, given that Brizzolara and Smith have almost twice as many years of legal experience as Defendant's counsel.

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	\$250
	\$18,125
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Total (Unadorned) Lodestar: \$265,875

#### C. MULTIPLIER

### 1. THE LEGAL STANDARD

#### a. Generally

"[T]he lodestar adjustment method, including discretion to award fee enhancements, is well established under California law." Ketchum v. Moses, 24 Cal. 4th 1122, 1137 (2001). "In FEHA cases, the trial court has the discretion to apply a multiplier or fee enhancement to the lodestar figure to take into account a variety of factors, including the quality of the representation, the novelty and difficulty of the issues presented, the results obtained and the contingent risk involved." Greene v. Dillingham Constr. N.A., Inc., 101 Cal. App. 4th 418, 426-27 (Ct. App. 2002) (citing Flannery, 61 Cal. App. 4th at 646; Serrano III, 20 Cal. 3d at 48-49).

"Of course, the trial court is *not required* to include a fee enhancement to the basic lodestar figure for contingent risk, exceptional skill, or other factors, although it retains discretion to do so in the appropriate case." <u>Ketchum</u>, 24 Cal. 4th at 1138 (emphasis added). Moreover, "the party seeking a fee enhancement bears the burden of proof." <u>Id.</u>

## b. Consideration of Contingent Risk

When determining whether to apply a multiplier, "the court determines, retrospectively, whether the litigation involved a contingent risk or required extraordinary legal skill justifying augmentation of the unadorned lodestar in order to approximate the fair market rate for such services." <u>Dillingham</u>, 101 Cal. App. 4th at 427 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). Moreover, the adjustment to the

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lodestar figure constitutes "earned compensation; unlike a windfall, it is neither unexpected nor fortuitous. Rather, it is intended to approximate market-level compensation for such services, which typically includes a premium for the risk of nonpayment or delay of attorney fees." Id. (citing Ketchum, 24 Cal. 4th at 1138). The contingent risk factor is used to determine a fee that is likely to entice competent counsel to undertake difficult public interest cases. See San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society v. County of San Bernardino, 155 Cal. App. 3d 738, 755 (Ct. App. 1984).

At the same time, courts have cautioned that application of a multiplier creates the risk of double-counting with the lodestar figure itself. For example, "[t]he factor of extraordinary skill, in particular, appears susceptible to improper double counting; for the most part, the difficulty of a legal question and the quality of representation are already encompassed in the lodestar. A more difficult legal question typically requires more attorney hours, and a more skillful and experienced attorney will command a higher hourly rate." Ketchum, 24 Cal. 4th at 1138-39. "Thus, a trial court should award a multiplier for exceptional representation only when the quality of representation far exceeds the quality of representation that would have been provided by an attorney of comparable skill and experience billing at the hourly rate used in the lodestar calculation. Otherwise, the fee award will result in unfair double counting and be unreasonable." Id. at 1139 (emphasis added).

#### c. Analysis

Plaintiff offers several reasons as to why a multiplier of "at least" 1.7 is warranted: (1) the contingent risk involved in prosecuting this action (Mot. at 13); (2) counsel's level of skill and commitment in prosecuting this action (id. at 16); (3) the success of litigation (id. at 17); and (4) the need to "make Plaintiff whole" to effectuate the purposes of FEHA (id. at 18). The Court finds the claim for a 1.7 multiplier unpersuasive but concludes that a modest multiplier of 1.2 is appropriate.

### (1). Contingent Risk

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The contingent risk factor weighs most strongly in awarding a multiplier in this case. The purpose of a contingent risk inquiry is to determine a fee that is likely to entice competent counsel to undertake difficult public interest cases. See San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, 155 Cal. App. 3d at 755. Here, while the "public interest" and "difficult" nature of this case is somewhat in doubt, it is undisputed that this was a FEHA case dealing with age and disability discrimination and it appears unlikely that Plaintiff would have been able to obtain these attorneys but for the contingent nature of their fees. (Brizzolara Decl. ¶ 26.)

As noted by several California courts, a court may determine retrospectively that the litigation involved a contingent risk justifying increasing the lodestar to approximate the fair market value of the attorney's services. Dillingham, 101 Cal. App. 4th at 427; Ketchum, 24 Cal. 4th at 1132. Essentially, the multiplier compensates counsel for the risk of the "loan of [their] services." Ketchum, 24 Cal. 4th at 1132-22. Here, given that Plaintiff's counsel was involved in this case since April 2004 (see Brizzolara Decl. ¶ 26, id., Ex. 1 [Brizzolara Timesheet] at 1), it appears appropriate to fashion a contingent risk multiplier that awards counsel the fair market value of their services since the three and a half years from the time they accepted this case. See Horsford, 132 Cal. App. 4th at 399-401 (holding trial court abused its 18 discretion by failing to consider factors for awarding multiplier and noting in particular 19 that counsel's compensation had been deferred for several years). The question is: 20 21 how much? 22

Having litigated and presided over many employment cases, the Court has seen many such disputes that presented a greater risk than this lawsuit. Employment discrimination cases most often turn on the issue of whether the reasons given for Plaintiff's termination were a pretext to conceal a discriminatory motive. In this case, Defendant's own records virtually guaranteed that a jury would find pretext. Although Defendant to this day asserts that Plaintiff was terminated because it did not have

relevant managerial level positions open when Plaintiff was released by his doctor to return to work, that assertion is belied by documentation that Defendant's employees were discussing the need to fill many such positions during the relevant time period.

(Exh. 241.) On April 16, 2003, just two weeks after Plaintiff asked to return to work, Craig Stone, Plaintiff's area manager, sent an email to Joy Stich in Human Resources advising that he had an "immediate need" to fill seven relevant, management level positions. (Id.) That same document included the following passage: "Needs Now – 2 manager hires needed for Director bench mid range." (Id.) Regarding this language, Toys R Us could only lamely assert that "immediate need" meant something other than a current need and that "now" meant something other than at once or at the present time. Likewise, Defendant's records include communication with a person seeking employment in a managerial position like the one formerly held by Plaintiff, and he was encouraged to submit his application. (Exhs. 237, 238.) In the words of Mike Turner, one of the decision makers involved in Plaintiff's termination, regarding a possible severance:

Due to the length of service it would be expensive. We would pay out his vac/eto upon his termination. He really isn't someone we want to put into another position anyway.

(Exh. 230; emphasis added.) Given the background evidence of age and disability based discriminatory motives, it didn't take an Edward Bennet Williams to persuade the jury that the articulated reason for Plaintiff's termination – that no positions were available to be filled – was not only a pretext but was an outright lie.

## (2). Skill and Commitment of Plaintiff's Counsel

Plaintiff asserts in somewhat conclusory fashion that the skill and commitment of Plaintiff's counsel in this case warrants awarding a multiplier. (Mot. at 16 ("Counsel for plaintiff were required to spend extensive time, effort, and money to prosecute this matter.")) This argument does not distinguish this situation from any other case where, presumably, counsel for a party also expends extensive time, effort, and

resources litigating their case. Moreover, courts have cautioned against using the skill and commitment of counsel to award a multiplier, given that these factors are likely already included in a lodestar calculation. See Ketchum, 24 Cal. 4th at 1138-39 ("A more difficult legal question typically requires more attorney hours, and a more skillful and experienced attorney will command a higher hourly rate.").

Frankly, the record does not support the conclusion that counsel committed a disproportionate amount of time to this case, or that they were particularly vigorous in discovering all relevant evidence that bore on their client's claim. Moreover, in the Court's view, Plaintiff had available alternative theories that more readily fit the fact pattern and would have been even easier to prove than the claims presented to the jury. Thus, the Court finds little in the record to suggest that counsel made the most of their skills and that they were more deeply committed to this case than to any other lawsuit on their docket.

#### (3). Success of Litigation

Plaintiff also asserts that the success of litigation justifies awarding a multiplier. (Mot. at 17.) In support, Plaintiff cites Serrano III, 20 Cal. 3d at 49, which only noted that one of the factors that that court considered in awarding a multiplier was that two law firms had been involved in an equal share of the success in the litigation. See id. Serrano III did not stand for the broad proposition that any successful litigation justified awarding a multiplier, and I have not found any case law to that effect. Accordingly, and again for reasons discussed above, Plaintiff's success in this readily winnable case indicates that, at most, a small multiplier would be appropriate.

### (4). Need to "Make Plaintiff Whole"

Plaintiff also argues that a multiplier is required to "make Plaintiff whole," that is, to put him where he would have been but for Defendant employer's discriminatory conduct. (Mot. at 18.) First, it is important to note that Plaintiff's counsel indicates that Brizzolara and Smith entered into a contingency fee agreement with Plaintiff.

(Brizzolara Decl. ¶ 26.) Counsel, however, does not state what the fee agreement is for. (See generally id.) Instead, Plaintiff's counsel indicates that the "standard" contingency fee percentage in Southern California "for matters of this nature" is 40% of any recovery received at or following trial. (Mot. at 17-18.) It is not clear from the papers whether this 40% "standard" arrangement was entered into between the parties. (This arrangement may be confidential, but that, too, is unclear from the papers.) Accordingly, it is difficult to determine what amount is theoretically even needed to "make Plaintiff whole."

In any event, the cases and statutes cited by Plaintiff for the proposition that a plaintiff must be made whole to effectuate the purposes of FEHA appear inapposite, as they deal with an award of actual damages, not attorney's fees. See Cloud v. Casey, 76 Cal. App. 4th 895, 909 (Ct. App. 1999) (finding plaintiff in FEHA action was entitled to prove the full extent of her damages necessary to make her 'whole,' including both back pay and front pay); Cal. Gov. Code § 12970(a) (describing availability of actual damages for FEHA violation); Commodore Home Sys., Inc. v. Superior Court, 32 Cal. 3d 211, 213 (1982) (punitive damages available in FEHA civil action); Ofsevit v. Trustees of Cal. State Univ., 21 Cal. 3d 763, 769 n.14 (not a FEHA case; only discusses that award of back pay to make plaintiff whole under California Education Code is permissible); Cal. Code of Reg. § 7286.9 (outlining broad authority of Fair Employment and Housing Commission - not courts - to fashion remedies for FEHA violation, including back pay and injunctive relief); League of United Latin Am. Citizens v. City of Salinas Fire Dept., 654 F.2d 557, 559 (9th Cir. 1981) (not a FEHA case; instead, a Title VII case affirming district court's grant of retroactive promotion and backpay to plaintiff).

## (5). Novelty or Difficulty of Issues Presented

While Plaintiff does not discuss this factor, Defendant correctly points out that this case lacked any novel or difficult issues which would weigh in favor of a multiplier.

See Opp. at 8-9; Dillingham, 101 Cal. App. 4th at 426-27; Flannery, 61 Cal. App. 4th

at 646; <u>Serrano III</u>, 20 Cal. 3d at 48-49. Indeed, this action was a relatively straightforward employment case involving one plaintiff, one defendant, and relatively limited facts and law. Accordingly, again as noted above, the lack of novelty or difficult issues presented in this case weigh against awarding a substantial multiplier.

#### (6). Computation

Focusing principally on the contingent risk element, the Court concludes that a 1.2 multiplier, which carries an implicit interest rate of 20%, would compensate counsel for the risk undertaken in accepting this case. Although a 20% interest rate might be considered high, the Court notes that counsel have been engaged in this lawsuit over an extended period of time and that the implicit interest rate on an attorney's "loan" of legal services is necessarily high because the "risk of default (the loss of the case, which cancels the debt of the client to the lawyer) is much higher than that of conventional loans." Ketchum, 24 Cal. 4th at 1132-33.

Plaintiff also asserts that because counsel was precluded from taking other cases while handling this one, counsel should be awarded a multiplier. (Mot. at 16.) This "opportunity cost" argument is not entirely persuasive because counsel has not established that it gave up representations where the party would have paid an hourly rate, or where the contingent risk was equivalent or lower to the risk assumed in this case. Without such a showing, the opportunity cost is a "wash."

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III.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's motion and awards Plaintiff attorney's fees, in the amount of \$319,050, which constitutes the lodestar figure of \$265,875 times a multiplier of 1.2.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: December 4, 2007

Judge Gary Allen Fleess United States District Court

# STATE COURT RULING

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#### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DATE: 11/28/07

DEPT. 23

HONORABLE Tricia Ann Bigelow

JUDGE E T ESPINOZA

DEPUTY CLERK

HONORABLE

JUDGE PRO TEM

ELECTRONIC RECORDING MONITOR

C VAUGHN, C.A.,

Deputy Sheriff

NONE

Reporter

BC353261

Plaintiff

Counsel

NO APPEARANCES

PRESED

FRANK I

FRANK LIMA

Defendant Counsel

SAMED

Charles R

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

170.6 DAU (Pltff)

#### NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS:

RULING RE SUBMITTED MATTER

The Court having taken MOTION OF PLAINTIFF, FRANK LIMA FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS under submission on November 27, 2007, now rules as follows:

The Court award attorney's fees in the amount of \$274,675.00.

The ruling is more fully reflected in the Court Ruling re Submitted Matter which is filed this date and incorporated herein by reference.

#### CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/ NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

I, the below named Executive Officer/Clerk of the above-entitled court, do hereby certify that I am not a party to the cause herein, and that this date I served Notice of Entry of the above minute order of 11/28/2007 upon each party or counsel named below by depositing in the United States mail at the courthouse in Los Angeles, California, one copy of the original entered herein in a separate sealed envelope for each, addressed as shown below with the postage thereon fully prepaid.

Date: November 28, 2008

Page 1 of 2 DEPT. 23

MINUTES ENTERED 11/28/07 COUNTY CLERK

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DATE: 11/28/07

HONORABLE Tricia Ann Bigelow

JUDGE E T ESPINOZA

**DEPT. 23** 

HONORABLE

JUDGE PRO TEM

DEPUTY CLERK

C VAUGHN, C.A.,

ELECTRONIC RECORDING MONITOR

Deputy Sheriff | NONE

BC353261

Plaintiff Counsel

FRANK LIMA

ATTERPRES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Defendant Counsel

NO APPEARANCES

SER

170.6 DAU (Pltff)

#### NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS:

John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/Clerk

By: E.T. Espinoza

MONESO ASSISTEDA

E T Espinoza

All of the following on the

Gregory Smith 9952 Santa Monica Blvd. Beverly Hills, CA 90212 ENTER HE

Chris Brizzolara 1528 16th Street Santa Monica, CA 90212 1.7

Rockard J. Delgadillo, City Attorney Beth D. Orellana, Deputy City Attorney Employment Litigation 700 City Hall East 200 N. Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

4.00

Page 2 of 2 DEPT. 23

MINUTES ENTERED 11/28/07 COUNTY CLERK

FILE STAMP

## ORIGINAL FILED

NOV 2 8 2007

LOS ANGELES
SUPERIOR COURT

## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FRANK LIMA

PLAINTIFF(S)

COURT RULING RE SUBMITTED MATTER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEFENDANT(S)

O MATTER

10 41 14 0

Frank Lima v. City of Los Angeles, et. al., BC 353261

Ruling:

The Court awards attorney's fees in the amount of \$274,675.00.

Background Facts:

On May 31, 2006, Plaintiff Captain Frank Lima filed suit against Defendant-Employer City of Los Angeles - apparently in its capacity as the Los Angeles Fire Department - in Los Angeles County Superior Court. The complaint states two causes of action for: (1) sex-based employment discrimination under FEHA; and (2) retaliation under FEHA. The complaint was answered by the City of Los Angeles on August 29, 2006. The factual allegations underlying the complaint are that Lima, in his role as a Fire Captain, was supervising a training drill in June of 2004, when a female firefighter under his command was unable to perform her assigned task. The female firefighter, Melissa Kelley, apparently aggravated a prior injury in the course of the drill, and later lodged a complaint that Captain Lima was singling her out, and harassing her. Upon this complaint, the Fire Department launched an investigation into Captain Lima's conduct, at which time Assistant Chief Andrew Fox met with Captain Lima and allegedly informed him through various statements that he was obligated to treat female recruits preferentially. Captain Lima refused this instruction, and alleges that he was subsequently retaliated against. Captain Lima subsequently filed a complaint with DFEH and received a right-to-sue letter. The Court notes that the same allegations were asserted to give rise to both causes of action.

On May 2, 2007, the Court heard argument regarding the summary adjudication of the first and second causes of action, and took the matter under submission. At oral argument, counsel for Captain Lima indicated that they would be willing to submit to a tentative ruling granting summary adjudication in favor of the City as to the first cause of action. In a written ruling issued on May 14, 2007, the Court denied summary adjudication as to the second cause of action.

On May 22, 2007, jurors were empanelled and sworn for trial on the matter. The trial commenced on May 24, 2007. On June 7, 2007, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Captain Lima. The total verdict was for \$3,750,000.00.

On October 5, 2007, Captain Lima filed a motion seeking to have the Court fix attorneys fees in the matter. The motion requests attorney's fees in the amount of \$ 411,637.50. On November 14, 2007, the City of Los Angeles filed an opposition to motion to tax costs. On November 21, 2007, Captain Lima filed a reply.

#### Analysis:

Captain Lima, as the prevailing plaintiff in a FEHA action is entitled to an award of his attorney's fees, pursuant to the statute and also pursuant to CCP § 1021.5, for pursuing litigation in the public interest. See Government Code § 12965(b) and Horsford v. Board of Trustees of California State University (2005) 132 Cal.App.4th 359, 394 concerning FEHA; and Tipton-Whittingham v. City of Los Angeles (2004) 34 Cal.4th 604, 610 discussing the similarity of the fee provisions in FEHA and CCP § 1021.5. The City does not contest the availability of attorneys fees as a general proposition, but merely the amount of the award and the circumstances of its grant.

Attorney Smith calls for compensation to Attorney Smith if Lima prevailed at trial of the greater of (a) the statutory award of attorney's fees, or (b) 40% of the jury award and the attorney's fee award (see Orellano Decl. ¶ 3). As the jury awarded Lima \$ 3.75 million dollars, 40% of that amount plus the attorney's fee award will certainly be greater than the statutory fee award by itself. The City asserts that this recommends an award of nothing, relying on authority which suggests that excessive awards are unreasonable, and that awards of unreasonable attorneys fee are an abuse of discretion. Serrano v. Unruh (1982) 32 Cal.3d 621, 635; Thayer v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (2001) 92 Cal.App.4th 819, 844-845. There is no authority provided which is directly on point, and the Court finds the City's argument to be largely unpersuasive. Captain Lima is plainly entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys fees incurred in the prosecution of his action against the

City. The subsequent exchange of monies between Lima and Attorney Smith is a matter of the contract between the two.

Turning to the hours requested in conjunction with the matter, the Court finds that the City, on its own initiative and through the declaration of Ken Moscaret, a defense expert on attorney's fees, engage in an rather unseemly attempt to denigrate the fees which may be reasonably charged by Attorneys Smith, Brizzolara, and Chun on Captain Lima's behalf. The attempts are unconvincing. Initially, the City attempts to rely on the assertions of Moscaret (whose article on "branding" in relation to enhanced fee requests is featured in a recent edition of the Los Angeles Daily Journal) and the unpublished musings of the Court of Appeal in Gonzalez v. Roadway Express 2005 WL 3470678 (Dec. 2005) for the proposition that attorneys in smaller firms should be entitled to a lesser hourly rate than attorneys of similar experience at larger firms. The propositions advanced in Gonzalez, and by Moscaret are merely persuasive authority - and they fail to persuade. While the lionization of the "white-shoe" law firm's hiring standards is not an unfamiliar phenomenon in law schools, trial courts often note that GPAs and diplomas do not necessarily translate into effective litigation skills and trial advocacy. The infatuation of larger firms with credentials certainly serves to create a gap in the skills and analytical abilities in an abstract population of new lawyers, but there is no authority or evidence suggesting that such a gap persists as attorneys gain experience. Indeed, the average small firm litigation partner is likely to have multiple times more trial experience than a large firm partner with commensurate experience. Moreover, these discrepancies in ability are relevant to the mass of attorneys in a state or metropolitan area, but not to individual attorneys. Here, the results achieved by Attorney Smith - soundly defeating the City of Los Angeles, and securing a multi-million dollar verdict for Captain Lima establish his bona fides in a manner sufficiently convincing to the Court.

The City also asserts that the matter was not staffed in the most efficient manner it could have been, providing no California authority suggesting that the Court is obligated to manage the tasks to which a party's attorneys are assigned.<sup>1</sup> The City then suggests

Welch v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. (9th Cir. (Cal.) 2007) 480 F.3d 942 – concerning billing increments. MacDougal v. Catalyst Nightclub (N.D. Cal. 1999) 58 F.Supp.2d 1101; Ursic v. Bethlehem Mines (3rd Cir. 1983) 719 F.2d 670; Mautner v. Hirsch (S.D.N.Y. 1993) 831 F.Supp. 1058 – concerning the delegation of tasks to the most efficient (i.e. cheapest) capable biller.

that the requested attorney's fees be taxed by 10% in response to this asserted billing practice, again without providing any authority or argument as to why this is appropriate. The Court certainly notes that assignment of tasks to the most efficient capable attorney is optimal, but finds no authority for the proposition that inefficient distribution of tasks amongst attorneys in a firm equates to billing malfeasance such that any bills requested are "beyond reason." Therefore, the Court rejects the suggestion that the staffing of the matter is unreasonable. The City further asserts that the time spent opposing the motion for summary judgment and the motion for new trial filed by the City are excessive. The memorandum of points and authorities recommends a percentage tax on the claimed hours without suggesting why this is appropriate.<sup>2</sup>

However, the Court does agree with the City that the attorneys fees awarded in the action are not appropriately subject to a multiplier. The Court finds that multipliers are appropriately applied when necessary to provide reasonable compensation in connection with counsel who prevails in a matter of public interest. Weeks v. Baker & McKenzie (1998) 63 Cal.App.4th 1128, 1171-1172. Here, the Court notes that a multiplier based on the contingent nature of Attorney Smith's recovery is inappropriate, as the contingent fee agreement which the plaintiff has entered into has secured adequate compensation for them. Moreover, the Court finds that the issues in the matter presented at trial were not sufficiently novel or difficult to warrant a multiplier.

Pursuant to the foregoing discussion, the Court awards attorney's fees in the amount of \$274,675.00 consisting of 358.5 hours of Attorney Smith's time at \$500.00 per hour, 118.6 hours of Attorney Brizzolara's time at \$500.00 per hour, and 144.5 hours of Attorney Chun's time at \$250.00 per hour. The Court finds these fees to be reasonable, and awards no multiplier thereto.

The percentage taxations recommended by the memorandum reference the declaration of Moscaret. Moscaret does not declare that he has any knowledge of what time Attorney Smith actually spent on these motions (see Moscaret ¶ 86). Moscaret proceeds from the assumption that certain federal decisions recommendation percentage taxations are appropriate. Absent California authority empowering the Court to engage in such "guesstimation," the Court declines the invitation to do so.

	<u>TIME</u>
<u>MATTER</u>	1.5
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7/48/2009 Conversation with Client	2.7
7/20/2009 Client meeting	0.5
7/30/2009 Meeting with Client 7/30/2009 Draft letter to Office of City Clerk, City of Burbank Draft letter to Office of City Clerk, City of Burbank	1.3
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Conversation With Ollen	3.8
8/19/2009 Conversation to the Said Reinke State Profit Profit Reinke State Reinke Legal research re: DFEH claims of Client, public entity liability	0.5
8/25/2009 Legal research fe. Dr Lit down.	6.0
8/27/2009 Draft letter to Lineau Vision	3.5
9/12/2009 Client meeting	0.4
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10/26/2009 Draft letter to Kristin Pelletier 10/26/2009 Draft letter to Kristin Pelletier 10/26/2009 Research re: Attorney-Client Privilege/Rule	1.0
10/26/2009 Research re: Attorney of an answer to complaint  11/2/2009 Review of Δ's answer to complaint	1.0
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11/3/2009 Prepare notice of rolate of address	0.5
11/3/2009 Prepare notice of Change o	6.5
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11/16/2009 Draft letter to Kristin V Silvas	

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17/25/2009 Prepare notice of refusal 12/14/2009 Prepare notice of refusal 1/15/2010 Review of Δ's discovery response (DD#1, FR-ELi	#1, etc.)	0.1
1/15/2010 Review of Δ's discovery response (BDIIII)		9.0
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1/18/2010 E-mail correspondence, resion 2/Travel 1/19/2010 Deposition of Plaintiff - Session 2/Travel 1/29/2010 Meet & confer re: CMC (case management confe	erence)	0.2
1/29/2010 Meet & confer re: CMC (case management		0.5
2/16/2010 Draft letter to Kristin Pelletier 2/24/2010 Review Murphy, Quesada, Ramos deposition no	tices	4.0
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3/2/2010 Civic (Case Management) 3/5/2010 Review amended deposition notices 3/11/2010 Telephone conf. re: discovery meet/confer, Tayl	or depo questions	1.0
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4/5/2010 Draft letter to Richard Riesso.		4.0
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4/15/2010 Client meeting		0.2
4/16/2010 Draft Skelly response		0.5
4/19/2010 Draft letter to Scott LaChasse 4/19/2010 Prepare notice to continue on Pitchess motion		1.2
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6/9/2010 F-mail correspondence, Kristin Follows		0.3
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	Viislin Bellotion	0.1
10/5/2010	E-mail correspondence, Kristin Pelletier	0.1
10/7/2010	E-mail correspondence, Kristin Pelletier	0.3
10/10/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.1
10/13/2010	E-mail correspondence, Kristin Pelletier	0.2
10/14/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	4.5
10/20/2010	Review documents/Client meeting	1.5
10/21/2010	Prepare response for Δ's request for production of documents	0.2
10/21/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
10/21/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
10/21/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
10/26/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	2.2
11/2/2010	Meeting with Client, re: discovery response	5.0
11/3/2010	Meeting with Client, re: discovery response	4.0
11/4/2010	π's ex parte hearing, order allowing filing 1st amend. complaint	6.0
11/5/2010	π's discovery response (DD#2, SR#1)	
	Trial setting conference/travel; Jette, Rosoff motion for protective order	4.0
12/6/2010	sealing Pitchess motions	3.0
12/15/2010	Motion for protective order	0.2
12/20/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
12/20/2010	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
12/23/2010	Δ's ex parte, order directing preparation of sealed transcripts	3.5
1/10/2011	Drafting First Amended Complaint	0.1
1/13/2011	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	0.1
1/13/2011	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	2.0
1/14/2011	Review of Δ's answer to 1st amended complaint	0.2
1/17/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
1/18/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	4.0
1/19/2011	Hearing on Plaintiff's filing Pitchess motions (re: Jette, Rosoff)	4.0
1/21/2011	Hearing on Plaintiff's Pitchess motion re: Merrick Bobb Report	1.0
2/11/2011	π's opposition re: OSC, why relief should/should not be granted	0.2
2/16/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	2.0
3/18/2011	π's discovery response (SR#2)	4.1
3/23/2011	Joint status report/travel re: hearing on π's Pitchess motion Hearing on Plaintiff's Pitchess motions/travel (re: Jette, Rosoff)	4.0
4/6/2011	Hearing on Plaintin's Pitchess motions/traver (16. dotto), 1100011	
	Oral argument hearing, re: Case #B229849/#B230175; Court of Appeal,	
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4/13/2011	and the state of t	0.5
4/19/2011	Draft letter to Robert Tyson	0.1
5/4/2011	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	0.2
5/31/2011		4.0
5/31/2011	Telephone conference re: setting dates for Pitchess motions, etc.	0.3
6/1/2011	- and the Debart Tugger	0.7
6/28/2011	n : ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	4.0
7/5/2011		0.5
7/7/2011		
	Review client note re: Gardiner; Investigation re: Porto's; Client meeting	8.0
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7/8/2011		0.2
8/4/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
8/5/2011		0.5
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	- vith Bill Taylor	0.2
=	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.1
8/9/2011	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	4.0
8/19/2011	Hearing re: protective order	0.5
8/26/2011	Draft letter to Ronald Frank, Robert Tyson	0.2
8/26/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	2.5
8/26/2011	π's oppos. to Δ's motion to compel π's further resp to SR #2	0.2
9/1/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	3.5
9/1/2011	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 1	0.5
9/9/2011	Defendant's meeting to compel further response	0.1
9/14/2011	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	4.1
9/15/2011	Review redactions in 16 volumes of Porto's investigation	3.3
9/16/2011	Review redactions in 16 volumes of Porto's investigation	0.8
9/16/2011	Draft letter to Ronald Frank, Robert Tyson	0.2
9/19/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.1
9/26/2011	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	3.0
10/3/2011	Review Taylor salary documents	8.0
10/3/2011	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 2, 3	0.2
10/4/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
10/4/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	7.4
10/4/2011	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 4, 5	4.5
10/5/2011	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 6	4.2
10/6/2011	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 7	3.0
10/7/2011	Review and prepare responses to Δ's discovery	6.5
10/7/2011	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 8	0.1
10/7/2011	E-mail correspondence, Kristin Pelletier	0.1
10/10/2011	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	2.5
10/11/2011	Taylor deposition preparation	0.1
10/11/2011	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	9.0
10/12/2011	Taylor deposition/travel	9.0
10/13/2011	Taylor deposition/travel	0.2
10/17/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	2.5
10/17/2011	Expert witness designation, preparation	9.0
10/18/2011	Taylor deposition/travel	0.1
10/21/2011	E-mail correspondence, Agnes Tualla	3.5
10/26/2011		2.5
10/27/2011	Stehr deposition	0.1
10/27/2011	E-mail correspondence, I heresa	2.5
10/28/2011	π's discovery response (FR-EL#2)	0.2
10/31/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
10/31/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	3.5
10/31/2017	Prepare for Ramos deposition/Review documents	3.0
11/1/2011	Ramos deposition	3.5
11/1/2011	π's discovery response (DD#3)	0.1
11/2/2011	E-mail correspondence, Linda Savitt	4.1
11/3/2011	Prepare for Flad deposition/Review documents	0.2
11/4/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
11/4/2011		3.0
11/4/2011	Flad deposition	0.4
11/7/2011	Droft letter to Ronald Frank	2.0
11/7/2011	. Monting with Client re-trial preparation, Witness list, exhibit list	3.0
11/7/2011	1 Review documents and respond to Δ's Document Demand #5	0.1
11/0/201	— o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o	U. I

1/10/2011	Review of Pitchess documents with Client	7.1
1/15/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
1/15/2011	Review Δ's motion to continue trial	0.5
11/15/2011	Attend Δ's motion to continue trial/travel	4.1
1/16/2011	VSC, Travel	4.5
1/22/2011	Consultation with Client and review Pitchess documents	4.0
1/23/2011	Phone communication with Bill Taylor	0.2
12/1/2011	Review of Pitchess documents with Client	6.0
12/7/2011	Review of Pitchess material with Client for trial	4.0
12/7/2011	Δ's ex parte to augment expert witness designation	3.0
1/12/2012	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 9, 10, 11	5.4
1/13/2012	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 12	4.3
1/16/2012	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 13, 14	5.0
1/17/2012	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 15, 16	5.5
1/18/2012	Review Porto's investigation, Volume 17, 18	4.0
1/18/2012	Telephone conversation with client, witness; trial preparation	3.0
1/19/2012	Listen to IA tapes from IA #34 (Taylor, Puglisi), review transcripts	6.5
1/19/2012	E-mail correspondence, Robert Frank	0.1
1/20/2012	Listen to IA tapes from IA #34 (Lowers, Stehr, Misquez), review statements	7.3
1/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	0.1
1/30/2012	Leoni deposition/travel	3.5
1/31/2012	Δ's discovery response (Supp DD #1, Supp Rog #1, etc.), review	1.5
2/1/2012	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	0.1
2/14/2012	Review research and draft oppositions to Δ's motions in limine I-3	6.4
2/21/2012	Meeting with Bill Taylor	5.0
2/21/2012	Ex parte hearing; page-by-page review of Porto's investigations	7.5
2/22/2012	Meeting with Bill Taylor	3.2
2/23/2012	Meeting with Bill Taylor	4.5
2/24/2012	E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	0.1
2/24/2012	E-mail correspondence, Tony Kay	0.1
2/24/2012	Prepare exhibits from Porto's IA and π's documents	6.1
2/24/2012	E-mail correspondence, Tony Kay	0.1
2/24/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/24/2012	Continue preparing exhibit list, witness list; Review documents	6.1
2/24/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/24/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/26/2012	Review voir dire question received from $\Delta$ and exhibit list from $\Delta$	. 3.2
2/27/2012	Meeting w/ client; page-by-page review of all Porto's investigations	6.4
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Agnes Tualla	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	Prepare for trial exhibits, documents/Porto's IA	6.3
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
2/27/2012	E-mail correspondence, Ronald Frank	0.1
	Final review $\Delta$ 's voir dire questions, witness list, statement of case, exhibit	4.0
2/28/2012	list	1.0
2/29/2012	Review documents in preparation for trial	2.3

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/29/2012 Attend FSC/travel	0.1
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O' '' = "	0.1
= and sorrespondence, Agrico , assess	0.1
F-mail correspondence, Nobel and Brizzolara; Review depositions,	8.5
Review exhibits, meeting W/ Client and Englander depositions	0.1
	0.1
	0.1
- I correspondence, Nonais ,	9.6
United to the second one (7 VOIUI) Column of (7 VOIUI) Column of (7 VOIII) Column of (7 VOIII) Column of (7 VOIII) Column of (7 VOIII) Column of (7 VOIIII) Column of (7 VOIII) Column of (7 VOIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIII) Column of (7 VOIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII	5.0
Meeting with client and Paul Kim; Review client's deposition's (2 votantial)  Meeting with client, review Pitchess, prepare for trial, prepare opening; E-  Meeting with client, review Pitchess, prepare for trial, prepare opening; E-  Meeting with client and Paul Kim; Review expert and witness list	8.4
Meeting with client, review Pilchess, propert and witness list	3.5
moil correspondence, 1013 1437	9.4
	0.1
575720 12 and dire opening statement, have	0.1
- "	8.3
E mail correspondence, Tony Nay	1.2
organia prepare for trial, trial/lavel	3.5
3/6/2012 prepare for trial, trial trades  3/6/2012 Review motion to quash trial subpoena  Review motion to quash trial subpoena depositions, statements	9.1
orzigona Prepare for trial, review documents	4.0
3/7/2012 Trial/travel 3/8/2012 Prepare for trial, review documents, depositions, statements	9.1
3/8/2012 Prepare for trial, review documents, depositions,	9.1 8.1
3/8/2012 Trial/travel Linda Savitt/trial/ travel	4.2
3/8/2012 Trial/travel 3/9/2012 E-mail correspondence, Linda Savitt/trial/ travel E-mail correspondence, Linda Savitt/trial/ travel	9.3
3/9/2012 E-mail correspondence, Linda Savitations documents 3/12/2012 Review depositions, witness statements, documents	3.3
3/12/2012 Trial/travel Stript following day review jury instructions	9.5
3/12/2012 Trial/travel 3/13/2012 Prepare for trial following day review jury instructions	9.5 3.5
Triol/trayel	9.2
3/13/2012 Thailteats: 3/14/2012 Prepare closing argument	0.1
:- Weevel	0.1
OF FIRE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE	9.3
3/14/2012 E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson  E-mail correspondence, Robert Tyson	9.2
3/15/2012 Trial/travel	8.4
3/16/2012 Trial/travel	0.5
J/ 10/20 1-	1.5
5/ 10/20	0.5
A/E/2012 Prepare objection/research to: Judgette	2.5
	3.2
4/12/2012 Review judgment 4/26/2012 Review judgment 4/26/2012 Prepare/research motion for injunctive relief Prepare/research motion for injunctive relief	0.5
	4.5
	5.0
Doview motion for new trial and office	2.2
Single - Light on filed DV A	1.5
ordina to tax (UBIS/1) ordina	3.2
5/17/2012 Review Δ's motion to tax costs 5/18/2012 Draft opposition to motion to tax costs	1.0
5/22/2012 Hearing	4.3
	2.0
	2.0
6/1/2012 Prepare hours for motion to account of the first of the firs	
Of 1120 12	

<b>0</b> , <b>0</b> . — -	Attend motion for new trial, JNOV; Travel Prepare hours for motion for attorney's fees Draft motion for attorney's fees, continue preparing hours	4.1 7.4 3.5
	Diale mount in any	727.6
	TOTAL HOURS	

## **Payment Listing**

Taylor, William H

#### Services provided through March 31, 2012

From	Through	Vendor	Billed	Discount	Amount	Currency
Attorney's Fees				<u> </u>	Amount	Oditeticy
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	6,372.40	0.00	6,372.40	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	165,163.85	0.00	165,163.85	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	2,744.50	0.00	2,744.50	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	43,857.65	0.00	43,857.65	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	10,396.50	0.00	10,396.50	USD
	•	BURKE WILLIAMS &	10,188.55	0.00	10,188.55	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	6,211.10	0.00	6,211.10	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	18,124.60	0.00	18,124.60	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	1,098.70	0.00	1,098.70	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	1,550.50	0.00	1,550.50	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	42.50	0.00	42.50	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	142.00	0.00	142.00	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	71,777.08	0.00	71,777.08	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	24,819.00	0.00	24,819.00	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	39,767.04	0.00	39,767.04	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	36,313.00	0.00	36,313.00	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	5,323.53	0.00	5,323.53	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	16,132.85	0,00	16,132,85	USD
	•	BURKE WILLIAMS &	8,389.75	0.00	8,389.75	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	23,452.92	0.00	23,452.92	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	17,983.32	0.00	17,983.32	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	52.56	0.00	52.56	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	68,116.60	0.00	68,116.60	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	49, 193.42	0.00	49,193.42	USD
		BURKE WILLIAMS &	25,567.12	0.00	25,567.12	USD
		STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	3,766.30	0.00	3,766.30	USD
		STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	275.00	0.00	275.00	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	1,008.70	0.00	1,008.70	USD
		BALLARD ROSENBERG	3,446.30	0.00	3,446.30	USD
		STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	1,517.10	0.00	1,517.10	USD
		STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	27,780.00	0.00	27,780.00	USD
		STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	185.00	0.00	185.00	USD

			)		)		_
From	•	Through	Vendor	Billed	Discount 0.00	Amount	Currency USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	1,812.50 277.50	0.00	1,812.50 277.50	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP		0.00	6,239.00	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	6,239.00	0.00	1,222.50	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	1,222.50		3,561.00	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	3,561.00	0.00		
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	5,195.00	0.00	5,195.00	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	2,115.50	0.00	2,115.50	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	7,034.74	0.00	7,034.74	USD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	2,072.00	0.00	2,072.00	DSD
			STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	1,776.00	0.00	1,776.00	USD
	÷		STONE & BUSAILAH LLP	3,082.62	0.00	3,082.62	USD
			BALLARD ROSENBERG	8,525.56	0.00	8,525.56	USD
			BALLARD ROSENBERG	382.00	0.00	382.00	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	24,631.35	0.00	24,631.35	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	47,848.48	0.00	47,848.48	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	26,113,20	0.00	26,113.20	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	54,692.06	0.00	54,692.06	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	26,989.35	0.00	26,989.35	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	21,781.46	0.00	21,781,46	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	11,439.50	0.00	11,439.50	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	26,379.00	0.00	26,379.00	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	32,957.00	0.00	32,957.00	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	2,564.82	0.00	2,564.82	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	147.50	0.00	147.50	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	383.50	0.00	383.50	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	15,511.14	0.00	15,511.14	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	4,474.50	0.00	4,474.50	USD
			BURKE WILLIAMS &	10,622.50	0.00	10,622.50	USD
			Totals for Attorney's Fees	1,015,023.6	0.00	1,015,023.6	
Depo	sitions		•				
			VERITEXT LOS ANGELES	1,648.70	0.00	1,648.70	USD
			VERITEXT LOS ANGELES	1,544.00	0.00	1,544.00	USD
	•		VERITEXT LOS ANGELES	1 ,541 .95	0.00	1,541.95	USD
			VERITEXT LOS ANGELES	1,642.65	0.00	1,642.65	USD
			VERITEXT LOS ANGELES	1,235.75	0.00	1,235.75	USD
			LEGAL VIDEO SVCS	1,358.00	0.00	1,358.00	USD
			LEGAL VIDEO SVCS	691.00	0.00	691.00	USD
			LEGAL VIDEO SVCS	691.00	0.00	691.00	USD

From ' Through	Vendor	Billed	<i>j</i> Discount	Amount	Currency
10111	VERITEXT LOS ANGELES	528.15	0.00	528.15	USI
	Totals for Depositions	10,881.20	0.00	10,881.20	
Expert Witness			•		
	PATRICK LYNCH	3,855.00	0.00	3,855.00	USE
	Totals for Expert Witness	3,855.00	0.00	3,855.00	
FedEx/Delivery Service					
	ARTEK CO	38.00	0.00	38.00	USE
	ARTEK CO	38.00	0,00	38.00	USI
	FEDERAL EXPRESS	6.26	0.00	6.26	USE
	ARTEK CO	45.00	0.00	45.00	ust
	FEDERAL EXPRESS	32.10	0.00	32.10	USI
	ARTEK CO	38.00	0.00	38,00	USI
	WEST COAST SERVICES	25.00	0.00	25.00	USI
	ARTEK CO	55.00	0,00	55.00	USI
	ARTEK CO	55.00	0.00	55.00	USI
	Totals for Fed Ex/Delivery Service	332.36	0,00	332.36	
/liscellaneous	PRINCE INVESTIGATIONS INC	596.50	0.00	596.50	USI
	PRINCE INVESTIGATIONS INC	1,590.00	0.00	1,590.00	USI
	PRINCE INVESTIGATIONS INC	993.20	0.00	993.20	USI
	PRINCE INVESTIGATIONS INC	1,575.80	0,00	1,575.80	USI
	PRINCE INVESTIGATIONS INC	362.50	0.00	362.50	USI
	PRINCE INVESTIGATIONS INC	444.90	0.00	444.90	USI
	Totals for Miscellaneous	5,562.90	0.00	5,562.90	
Photocopy/Reproduction	LA BEST PHOTOCOPIES INC	E 040 20	0.00	E 040 60	USI
·	Totals for Photocopy/Reproduction	5,018.68 5,018.68	0.00	5,018.68 5,018.68	
	Totals	1,040,673.70	0.00	1,040,673.70	

	×.		,		
*	) LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	4,752.00	0.00	4,752.00	USD
4	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	3,483.00	0.00	3,483.00	USD
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	10,479.30	0.00	10,479.30	USD
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	5,535.00	0.00	5,535.00	USD
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	8,208.00	0.00	8,208.00	USD
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	7,029.90	0.00	7,029.90	USD
	Totals for Liebert Cassidy Whitmore	130,117.41		130,117.41	ตรบ
	Totals	330,065.30		330,065.30	USD
					•

## **Payment Listing**

Police Department Investigation

	Vendor	Billed	Discount	Amount	Currency
From Through Investigative Fees		227 50	0.00	337.50	USD
III Congain	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	337.50	0,00	4,518.27	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	4,518.27		18,389.36	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	18,389.36	0.00	7,305.26	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	7,305.26	0.00	ŕ	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	13,560.85	0.00	13,560.85	
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	22,993.15	0.00	22,993.15	. USD
•	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	17,381.62	0.00	17,381.62	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	12,400.02	0.00	12,400.02	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	asu
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	8,706.66	0.00	8706.66	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	18,830.45	0.00	18,830.45	USD
		21,106.51	0.00	21,106.51	USD
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	7,806.39	0.00	7,806.39	USE
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	7,138.75	0.00	7,138.75	บรถ
Activities the second	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES		0.00	1,687.50	USI
<b>-</b> .	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	1,687.50	0.00	3,388.10	USI
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	3,388.10	0.00	175,550.39	
	Totals for Investigative Fees	175,550.39		110,000,00	
Litigation Consulting Fees		4,769.37	0.00	4,769.37	us
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	6,281.07	0.00	6,281.07	US
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	472.50	0.00	472.50	บร
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	6,493.32	0.00	6,493.32	US
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	2,205.21	0.00	2,205.21	U
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	2,015.58	0.00	2,015.58	U
	JAMES GARDINER ASSOCIATES	2,160.45	0.00	2,160.45	υ
	Totals for Litigation Consulting Fees	24,397.50		24,397.50	
Investigative Fees	Totals for Engage				
Investigative ress	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	162.00	0.00	162.00	ับ
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	1,045.55	0.00	1,045.55	·
		7,506.00	0.00	7,506.00	) ι
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE  THE STATE OF THE S	25,833.32	0.00	25,833.3	<u> </u>
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	26,846.00		26,846.0	) t
		5,292.0		5,292.0	ο ι
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	5,535.0		5,535.0	o (
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	•			4 1
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	6,053.9			
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	6,831.0			
	LIEBERT CASSIDY WHITMORE	5,525.4	10 0.00	5,525.4	10

11		l
1	PROOF OF SERVICE	
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA )	
3	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )	
4	I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age	
5	of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within action; my business address is 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 345E, Beverly Hills, California 90212.	
6   7 8	On the date hereinbelow specified, I served the foregoing document, described as set forth below on the interested parties in this action by placing true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes, at Beverly Hills, addressed as follows:	
9	DATE OF SERVICE : June 11, 2012	ļ
10	DOCUMENT SERVED : DECLARATION OF GREGORY W. SMITH IN	
1,1	SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES	
12	PARTIES SERVED : SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST.	Ì
13	XXX (BY REGULAR MAIL) I caused such envelope(s) with postage thereon fully prepai to be placed in the United States mail at Beverly Hills, California. I am "readily	t
14	familiar" with firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for	
15 16	course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served, service is	е
17	day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.	
18	comorai@adelnhia net	.O S:
19 20	(CTATE) I dealars under penalty of periury under the laws of the State of Californ	а
2	(FEDERAL) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of th	is
22	court at whose direction the service was made.	
2: 2:	EXECUTED at Develop Times, Sumovina Circums	
2	Colmo I. Francia	
2		
2	7	
2	0	
	DECLARATION OF GREGORY W. SMITH IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES	_

SERVICE LIST	
WILLIAM TAYLOR v. CITY OF BURBANK LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. BC 422 252	
Christopher Brizzolara, Esq. 1528 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Santa Monica, California 90404 (By Electronic Mail Only)	
Ronald F. Frank, Esq.  Robert J. Tyson, Esq.  Burke Williams & Sorenson LLP  Burke Williams & Sorenson LLP  444 South Flower Street, Suite 2400  Los Angeles, California 90071-2953	
Amelia Ann Albano, City Attorney Carol A. Humiston, Sr. Asst. City Atty. Office of the City Attorney City of Burbank 275 East Olive Avenue Post Office Box 6459 Burbank, California 91510	
Linda Miller Savitt, Esq. Philip L. Reznik, Esq. Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt LLP Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Sovitt LLP 500 North Brand Boulevard, 20 <sup>th</sup> Floor Glendale, California 91203-9946	
19 20	
21   22	
23	
25	
27	
28  -9-  DECLARATION OF GREGORY W. SMITH IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S	FEE